Bank for assistance to the tune of US $ 2.8 million under the ongoing Environmental Management Capacity Building Project.

(e) The Ministry of Environment and Forests provides assistance to coastal States and Union Territories for mangrove plantations, to enrich existing mangrove areas and for coastal shelter belt plantations, in order to minimise environmental damage and loss of life and property due to natural calamities.

Disposal of used lead acid Batteries

196. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry plans to control disposal of used lead acid batteries;

(b) whether a law to curb disposal of used lead acid batteries is on anvil;

(c) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(d) how compliance of disposal orders of the batteries by the manufacturers and dealers would be monitored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is in the process of finalising a preliminary notification calling for objections/suggestions on the Management and Handling of Used Lead Acid Batteries in the country. As per the proposed preliminary notification all manufacturers, importers, re-conditioners, assemblers and dealers shall collect used batteries back for new batteries sold. Cent per cent collection is proposed to be achieved in a phased manner. To ensure environment friendly re-processing, collected batteries are required to be sold to only such re-cyclers who are registered with the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Consumers are required to return used batteries only to the authorised agents.

(d) The respective State Pollution Control Board/Committee shall be the monitoring agency. The manufacturers are required to submit quarterly returns on collection to the concerned State Pollution Control Board/Committee. The Central Pollution Control Board Shall compile and publish data on collection annually.

Reduction of pollution from smoke and dust

197. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been undertaken for reduction of air pollution by smoke and dust;

(b) if so, with what results and if not, whether the Ministry would initiate such a research; and

(c) what measures are being enforced for protection of environment from pollution by fly-ash?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Smoke and dust in the air result from several sources like vehicular exhaust, emissions from industries like cement, petroleum fertilizer, chemical etc., mining, construction activities, thermal power plants and so on Deforestation also leads to wind erosion and resultant dust in the air. Research studies have been carried by various scientific organisations including Central/ State agencies, NGOs and private companies in their respective areas. To cite a few examples, research studies are progressing to develop slurry-based transport system for fly-ash in place of dry transport system, development of various products from fly-ash, improvement in 2T oil to reduce smoke and particulate matter from 2T stroke engine, as also change of 2-stroke engines to 4-stroke engines, phasing out more than 15-years old vehicles from metropolitan cities use of bag house technology to reduce suspended particulate matter pollution, raising of green belts of identified plant species around factories, to reduce air pollution, intensive afforestation measures in urban and deforested/desert lands etc. Air